

COVID-19 Regional Update

Date: 11 – 15 May 2020

Somali Region

Two new COVID-19 cases have been identified on 12 May 2020 in the Somali Region. The number of individuals currently staying in the quarantine centers of the region are as follows:

- Dawale: **716**
- Jigjiga University: **1,416**
- Moyle: **150**
- Qadaduma: **11**
- Mubarak: **8**
- Dolo-Ado (Suuftu): **10**
- Warder: **50**

2,361 individuals have been deported from neighboring countries back to the Somali Region since March 2020,. Out of these deportees, 2,223 persons are currently in quarantine.

Key activities undertaken this week are:

- State Minister of Health Saharla Abdullahi visited the region and held a meeting with the COVID-19 task force.
- 15 COVID-19 facility centers, located in the border areas of the region are currently providing services e.g. temperature measuring, hand-washing and awareness raising campaigns.
- Two mechanical ventilators and 32 oxygen concentrators are under maintenance in order to be handed over to treatment centers.
- Offices, such as Ethio-telecom, Ethiopian Electric Power Cooperation and several banks initiated 'No mask, no service' policy in the region.

Some of the challenges Somali Region is facing in COVID-19 preparedness and prevention are:

- Treatment and isolation facilities are facing a shortage of N95 supplies and surgical masks, as the region is saving PPE for a worst-case scenario.

Harar and surrounding areas

Key activities undertaken in Harar and surrounding areas this week are:

- 150 health professionals commenced home-to-home screening in Aweday, Hakim and Babile Districts.
- Ethiopian Red Cross Harar Office donated 400,000 hygiene and sanitation materials and clothing to the regional government;
- MAARIF foundation hospital and school compound were assigned as one of the treatment centers in the region.

Some of the challenges Harar and surrounding areas are facing in COVID-19 preparedness and prevention are:

- Behavioral change in the communities is slow, particularly in regards to social distancing in market areas.

Dire Dawa

Key activities undertaken in Dire Dawa this week are:

- Kunshan, the Chinese sister city of Dire Dawa donated 5,100 face masks, five oxygen concentrators, 100,000 gloves and 24 thermometers.

Oromia Region

In Borana Zone, the samples of 92 individuals who had contacts with previously confirmed COVID-19 cases have been tested and confirmed negative. A further 75 samples have been sent to Addis Ababa for testing.

Key activities undertaken in Borana Zone this week are:

- Social mobilization continues across all districts. 17 NGOs (including VSF-Suisse) are engaged in COVID-19 awareness creation campaigns.
- Borana Zone Health Office started the spraying of bus stations, main roads, market centers and offices. This activity is contributing to the community awareness creation and will be resumed in other districts. The chemical input was donated by UNICEF and the truck was availed by the Borana Zone Water Office.
- Moyale Hospital completed its preparations for COVID-19 related treatments. Regular health services will be provided at Moyale Health Center and other health centers at kebele level.
- Preparation of the Yabello COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Center is in progress. Two health experts are currently on technical training in Addis Ababa.

Some of the challenges Borana Zone is facing in COVID-19 preparedness and prevention are:

- Moyale Health Center and other health centers at kebele level lack medical supplies, laboratory equipment, PPE and capacity building in order to provide regular medical services on behalf of Moyale Hospital.